CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A fuel tank installation, comprising: a fuel tank with an expansion volume, a filler neck extending to the fuel tank for refueling the fuel tank, a fill vent line in communication with the fuel tank for venting the fuel tank during refueling, and operating vent means for venting the expansion volume above a maximum fill level of the fuel in the fuel tank, said operating vent means including at least one operating vent line extending from at least one expansion volume within the fuel tank to a central penetration location and, at the central penetration location, together with the fill vent line, through a wall of the fuel tank.

2. A fuel tank according to claim 1, wherein said at least one operating vent line is provided with a float valve at its inlet end remote from the central penetration.

3. A fuel tank according to claim 1, wherein said at least one operating vent line is connected in the area of the central penetration to said fill vent line.

4. A fuel tank according to claim 3, wherein at the central penetration area a float valve is provided which provides for, or blocks, communication between the fuel tank and the fill vent line.

5. A fuel tank according to claim 4, wherein in the area of the central penetration an operating vent chamber is provided which is in communication with the fill vent line and said at least one operating vent line is connected to the operating vent chamber.

6. A fuel tank according to claim 5, wherein said operating vent chamber is an annular chamber.

7. A fuel tank according to claim 6, wherein said annular operating vent chamber extends around a space forming the inlet end of the fill vent line and a float valve is provided and arranged so as to permit communication between the tank or block such communication.

8. A fuel tank according to claim 5, wherein means are provided for selectively blocking communication between the operating vent chamber and the fill vent line.

9. A fuel tank according to claim 8, wherein the means for selectively blocking communication between the operating vent chamber and the fill vent line is an electrically controllable valve.

10. A fuel tank according to claim 8, wherein the means for selectively blocking communication between the operating vent chamber and the fill vent line is disposed within the fuel tank.